
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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GOVERNOR'S BUDGET HEARING — DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

Budget Discussion. Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey presented his budget requests to Governor Kim Reynolds on November 27, 2017. The Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (DALs) is requesting a General Fund increase of \$10.2 million for FY 2019, including:

- An increase of \$5.2 million for the Water Quality Initiative (WQI). For estimated FY 2018, \$3.0 million is being funded to the WQI from the General Fund and \$5.2 million from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF).
- An increase of \$1.9 million for the Agricultural Drainage Wells Program. For estimated FY 2018, \$1.9 million is being funded from the RIIF.
- An increase of \$3.0 million for the Renewable Fuels Infrastructure Fund. For estimated FY 2018, \$3.0 million is being funded from the RIIF.
- An increase of \$150,000 for the Foreign Animal Disease Program. For estimated FY 2018, \$100,000 is being funded from the General Fund.

Long-Term WQI Funding. Secretary Northey requested continued funding to support the WQI in the next fiscal year and asked for support to identify a long-term source of funding.

Agricultural Drainage Wells. Secretary Northey reported there are 16 agricultural drainage wells that need to be closed. The DALs estimated that the \$1.9 million being requested for FY 2019 would close five wells.

Foreign Animal Disease. The additional \$150,000 for the Foreign Animal Disease Program would provide support to prepare and respond to a foreign animal disease outbreak. For estimated FY 2018, the DALs received a \$100,000 General Fund appropriation for this Program, which was used to hire a new emergency management veterinarian. Additional funding would be used to work on emergency response plans, organize disease response exercises, and expand coordination efforts with animal industry partners.

Additional Information. Additional information is available at the [DALs website](#).

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